

1 been made.

2 Most of my friends or many of my friends
3 and my associates and I can attribute much of our
4 success to the gaming industry, and particularly to
5 Grand Casino.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

8 Jerry Boone.

9 MR. VAN BERRY: Good afternoon. My name
10 is Clinton Van Berry, and unfortunately Mr. Boone
11 could not come today.

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay.

13 MR. VAN BERRY: So I have been asked to
14 speak in his place.

15 I represent Harrah's of Atlantic City, and
16 on behalf of myself and my fellow colleagues, I would
17 like to thank you for this opportunity to speak.

18 Being the son of parents that worked in
19 the State and Agricultural Department, I'm proud to be
20 able to return to my home town of Washington, D.C., to
21 voice my views on how the gaming industry has
22 profoundly impacted my life.

1 I cherish my early years here in
2 Washington and was fortunate enough to have built a
3 successful retail store which afforded my family a
4 comfortable life style. However, with the
5 construction of the Metro transit system, my store's
6 viability was quickly in jeopardy as walk-by traffic
7 virtually disappeared.

8 This, coupled with the fact that
9 affordable family housing in the District of Columbia
10 region was out of reach, caused me to leave my former
11 home for a new life along this Southern New Jersey
12 shore. Unfortunately, while my new home was ideal for
13 raising a family, quality careers were scarce, and I
14 found myself working four part-time jobs to simply
15 make ends meet.

16 Fortunately, a new industry, casino
17 gaming, was arising just a few miles away. I was
18 immediately hired by this fledgling industry, and
19 since that day I have been able to provide for myself
20 and my family, which would not have been possible
21 without the opportunity that casino employment
22 presented.

1 Today the residents of small towns like
2 mine surrounding Atlantic City have reaped the
3 benefits of the competitive job environment that
4 casinos have created. In my time in the Atlantic City
5 region, I have seen wages increase, non-casino jobs
6 emerge, quality housing be created, and good people
7 move from welfare to work.

8 I can attest to the improvement in our
9 communities since, in addition to serving as a gaming
10 employee, I also serve as Chief Financial Officer for
11 my municipality and have seen first hand the increased
12 investment and improvements in the quality of life
13 that is a direct result of positive influence of
14 casino gaming.

15 On a personal level I feel that I am an
16 excellent example of the positive impact casinos can
17 have not only on communities, but individuals. Thanks
18 to my salary as a casino game supervisor, I have been
19 able to afford a nice home, a second home here in
20 Washington where I grew up, a new car, and best of
21 all, to send my oldest daughter to Tufts University
22 where she recently graduated.

1 In fact, my wife and I were even able to
2 qualify to adopt our beautiful daughter in 1983,
3 thanks in part to the financial stability that my
4 casino career has brought me.

5 My story may not be the most glamorous
6 example of the positive impact of casinos. In fact,
7 it's just one of thousands of success stories from my
8 company, Harrah's, alone.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, thank you for
10 coming and sharing that story, and I'm going to ask
11 you to submit the rest of that for the record.

12 And we now have Ms. -- is it Effie Elzey?

13 MS. ELZEY: Effie Elzey.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And Jim Mathias; is
15 that correct?

16 MS. ELZEY: Yes. I'm county commissioner
17 for Dorchester County, and I'm going to defer my
18 testimony to the mayor, but I first want to ask you to
19 consider the small counties in Maryland of which I am
20 a part, and we are a wonderful place to live and raise
21 a family.

22 I've given you written testimony of our